

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 and 6-8 have been rejected. Claims 4, 5 and 9-12 have been objected to by the Examiner. Claims 4, 9, 11 and 12 are herein canceled. Claims 1, 5, 6 and 10 are herein amended. New claims 19-21 have been added. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Examiner indicated that in claims 1 and 6 the recitation “the pulse is a gated version of the divided-by-N clock signal” is indefinite because it is unclear what the Applicants mean by “gated version”.

While Applicants disagree that what is meant by the “gated version” is unclear, claims 1 and 6 as amended do not recite this feature. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome or otherwise rendered moot and request that it be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,150,386 (Stern).

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner’s indication that claims 4, 5 and 9-12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the § 112 rejection and include the

limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 6 to overcome the § 112 rejection and have incorporated the features of claim 4 into independent claim 1 and the features of claim 9 into independent claim 6, to place independent claims 1 and 6 and the claims which depend therefrom in condition for allowance.

New Claims 19-21

New claim 19 has been written in independent form to incorporate the limitations of original claims 6 and 11. New claim 20 has been written in dependent form to include the limitations of original claim 12. New claims 19 and 20 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons stated in the Allowable Subject Matter section of the Office Action.

Previously presented claim 1 has been rewritten as new claim 21. Since new claim 21 includes the recitation “the pulse is a gated version of the divided-by-N clock signal”, Applicants will address the above-mentioned § 112 rejection as if it were applied thereto.

As previously stated, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s position that the recitation “the pulse is a gated version of the divided-by-N clock signal” is indefinite. For example, as shown in Fig. 4 of Applicant’s disclosure, a latch-based pulse generator 400 includes a NAND gate 405 that receives and NANDs a divided-by-N clock signal CLK2_EO (e.g., the divided-by-N clock signal) and a signal enb output from a first inverter 403. The signal enb is an inverted output of a NAND gate 401 that receives and NANDs input signals SFT_IN (e.g., the signal output from an (n-1)th unit cell) and SFTR_IN (e.g., the signal output from an (n+1)th unit cell). The output of the

NAND gate 405 is then inverted by an inverter 409 and output as a pulse for latching data LAT_PUL (e.g., the generated pulse).

As can be gleaned, the pulse for latching data LAT_PUL is not a latched version of the divided-by-N clock signal CLK2_EO, instead the pulse LAT_PUL is a gated version of the divided-by-N clock signal CLK2_EO. For example, the pulse LAT_PUL does not pass through a latch such as a latch 411 of Fig. 4 or one of the D latches 126-132 of Stern. Rather, the pulse LAT_PUL bypasses the latch 411 and is output after being NANDed by the NAND gate 405 and inverted by the inverter 409. Thus, since the divided-by-N clock signal CLK2_EO is gated through the NAND gate 405 by NANDing it with the signal enb, the pulse LAT_PUL is a gated version of the divided-by-N clock signal CLK2_EO.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the § 112 rejection is respectfully requested. Further, since this feature is not disclosed in Stern, Applicants believe that the invention as recited in claim 21 is patentable over Stern.

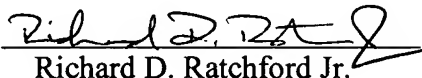
Dependent Claims

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicants submit that, in view of the amendments to the claims presented herein and, for at least similar reasons as why the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are believed allowable as discussed, *supra*, the dependent claims are also allowable. Applicants however, reserve the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims as herein presented are allowable over the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, and that the respective rejections be withdrawn. Applicants further submit that the application is hereby placed in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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